

REMARKS

Applicant has amended claim 12 to correct the cited informality, obviating the basis for the § 112, second paragraph rejection.

Applicant respectfully traverses the § 102(b) rejection of claims 1, 2, 4-7, 11, and 12 over Zhu et al. The reference does not disclose all of the features of the claims, expressly or by inherently, most notably, that in a second step, a front punch and a rear punch are rotated in opposite directions to provide a shear.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, applicant submits that the rejections are unsupportable, and requests reconsideration and allowance of all of the pending claims.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Reply, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

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By: J W Edm
James W. Edmondson
Reg. No. 33,871